

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 236708
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15 NSC-05
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ANTANANARIVO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 236708

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, EINV, MA

SUBJECT: SOLOFOSON ON US RELATIONS

1. MADAGASCAR DESK OFFICER MET SEPTEMBER 29 WITH DRM
PRESIDENTIAL ASSISTANT SOLOFOSON AT MALAGASY RECEPTION
FOR VISITING DELEGATION TO IMF MEETINGS HERE. DEPTOFF
NOTED FRIENDLY DISCUSSIONS THAT HAD TAKEN PLACE THAT SAME
DAY IN NEW YORK BETWEEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE AND

FONMIN RICHARD AND SAID HE HOPED SUCH CONTACTS WOULD
CONTINUE AND HELP TO IMPROVE RELATIONS. SOLOFOSON STATED
THAT RELATIONS WERE BOUND TO IMPROVE, SINCE THE MAIN
OBSTACLE HAD BEEN THE FACT THAT BOTH COUNTRIES HAD NEW
GOVERNMENTS WHICH NATURALLY HAD TO SORT THINGS OUT AT HOME
FIRST BEFORE TURNING TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. SOLOFO-
SON CLAIMED THAT THE DRM WAS COMFORTABLY SETTLED IN ITS
NEW GOVERNMENTAL SYSTEM AND WAS NOW PREPARED FOR BETTER
RELATIONS IF THE USG WOULD TREAT IT WITH THE PROPER
RESPECT. GUIDELINES FOR THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP COULD BE
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PAGE 02 STATE 236708

FOUND IN THE RECENT UPI ARTICLE BY SYLVANA FOA.

2. DEPTOFF GAVE SOLOFOSON SEVERAL OPPORTUNITIES TO
REGISTER COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE UNFAVORABLE ASPECTS OF THE
FOA ARTICLE, BUT SOLOFOSON ONLY STRESSED THE NATIONALISTIC
TONE OF FOA'S REPORT AND HOW WELL IT CAPTURED PRESIDENT
RATSIRAKA'S INDEPENDENT STRATEGY, EITHER IGNORING OR

PERHAPS NOT ACCEPTING ANY OF THE NEGATIVE OR EXAGGERATED
IMPRESSIONS IN THE PIECE.

3. ALSO PRESENT AT THE RECEPTION WAS JOHN EVANS, COUNSEL
FOR N-REN CORPORATION, WHO WILL TAKE ENTIRE MALAGASY
DELEGATION TO N-REN HEADQUARTERS IN CINCINNATI. N-REN
STILL HAS HOPES OF SELLING THE DRM A FERTILIZER PLANT AND
HOPES THAT ITS GUIDED TOUR WILL CLINCH THE DEAL.
SOLOFOSON JOKED ABOUT THE HIGH COST OF THE OPERATION BUT
CLAIMED THAT US INVESTMENT WAS STILL WELCOME IN MADAGASCAR.

4. AN OFFICIAL FROM US STEEL CAME DOWN FROM PITTSBURGH
FOR THE RECEPTION. HE SAID USS WAS INTERESTED IN TITANIUM
SANDS IN MADAGASCAR. HE DOUBTED HIS FIRM WOULD BE IN-
VOLVED IN ANY INVESTMENT IN THE NEAR FUTURE BUT NOTED THAT
USS HAD MAINTAINED CONTACT WITH MADAGASCAR FOR MANY YEARS
AND WOULD BE INTERESTED IN DEVELOPING THE TITANIUM
"LATER ON." CHRISTOPHER

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